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CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO · PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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CUNY

SAME ENEMY, SAME FIGHT!

NEW YORK CITY, March 6– The job of communists is to link workers' struggles, making it clear that the international working class has one enemy—capitalism and its defenders. This is why we chanted "Imperialist war means—Fight Back!" across the Brooklyn Bridge with 1,000 people marching for funding for the City University of New York (CUNY).

On the bullhorn and as we talked with our students and coworkers, the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) contingent connected the racist budget cuts at CUNY with the imperialist war unfolding in Ukraine; both are aspects of the profit system. Our friends also read our vision for the future in the pages of the 200 copies of CHALLENGE that were distributed: revolutionary war to end this system and replace it with communism.

Gotta be in the class struggle

Across all five boroughs and on many campuses across CUNY, we've been building a base for communist revolution with students and workers. We've fought for lower tuition, for more funding, and against war criminal David Petraeus. During the pandemic we've fought, for better health and safety measures, for lower online class size and to prevent CUNY from unfairly taking money from students who failed to adhere to CUNY's confusing and arbitrary vaccine policy.

Even as we've fought for these reforms with our students and coworkers, we've struggled to make communist politics, such as the unity of all workers regardless of "race" or "nationality," primary.

The hard work that we've been doing over many months and years was evident, as we were able to organize a sizable contingent of over 15 to attend the demonstration. The ride to the march was an opportunity, not only to connect the Russian invasion of Ukraine to our fight at CUNY, but also for discussion about where our struggles have gotten us, the possibilities and limits of these fights, and whether we need a different kind of fight—one that attacks the capitalist system itself.

The best possible ending

At the march, we joined with a more militant section of education workers who have rejected the union leadership's dead-end politics: call on legislators to "do the right thing."

Instead, the chants coming from our section of the march ended with "Strike! Strike! Strike!"

A strike at CUNY would represent a significant sharpening of the class struggle and give us a tremendous opportunity to put forward a revolutionary line. The antiracist class consciousness of these militant education workers was also on full display, as they linked the financial attack on CUNY with an incident at Queens College, where racist graffiti was found on a campus building. We've been active with these education workers for many years and will continue to do so as the

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Smash Racist Baraka!

March 15, NEWARK, NJ — A multiracial group of workers stormed Newark's liberal fascist Mayor Ras Baraka's 'State of the City' address to demand the release of political prisoner Justin Rodwell. The group made demands that all the charges and harassment against the Rodwell-Spivey family CEASE. PL'ers and friends declared there ARE NO GOOD MAYORS, COPS, OR POLITICIANS in a RACIST SYSTEM! The only way to make attacks against our class by liberal misleaders like Baraka is to build toward communist revolution. Read more in demonstration in the next issue of CHALLENGE.

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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SCAN ME

OUR FIGHT

✰Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✰The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✰Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✰While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✰Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

✰Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✰Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✰Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✰Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✰Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

CONTACT US

Email
desafio.challenge@gmail.com
Mail
Box 808 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202
Internet
www.plp.org
Twitter, Facebook, Instagram:
@PLPchallenge

WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

War in Ukraine

Smash imperialists, nationalism, & democracy!

"The first casualty of war is truth."

With Ukraine on fire and Russia and NATO flexing their military forces within a handful of miles of one another, the capitalist bosses of the world are accelerating their momentum toward global war. None of the top imperialist powers—the United States, Russia, and China—are in total control over what happens next in Ukraine. Their desperation to protect their power and profits makes this a dangerous and volatile period for our class. As the rival rulers use their media as capitalist propaganda to rally workers around democracy and nationalism, their tools for racism and worldwide devastation, we must use our communist tools—including CHALLENGE—to combat them. Our rallying cry is for international working-class consciousness and solidarity. Our marching orders are to turn the guns around, to transform inter-imperialist war into communist revolution. Then we will have the opportunity to create the world the working class deserves, a society run by workers to meet workers' needs—communism.

Slippery slope to World War III

The post-Vietnam decline of the U.S. ruling class, as evidenced by their debacles in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan, has opened the door for the Russian imperialists to push the limits of their power through the invasion of Ukraine. President Joe Biden's response—to revive NATO and other U.S. alliances with sanctions against Russia and arms shipments to Ukraine—has had mixed results. "The giants of the Global South – including India, Brazil, and South Africa – are hedging their bets while China still publicly backs Putin" (Washington Post, 3/10). Even Mexico is proving an unreliable U.S. ally as it keeps its doors open to a tightening Russia-China alignment (Reuters, 3/4).

On top of its weakening international ties, the U.S. ruling class is dealing with a deepening internal division between its two factions: the "Big Fascists" of finance capital and the more domestically oriented "Small Fascists" (See glossary, page 6). Finance capital's fear of ceding power to the bosses who control domestic oil and gas has been exposed by their attempts to ease an international oil shortage by resurrecting relations with bitter adversaries like Venezuela and Iran (Washington Post, 3/7). But while the rulers' loyalties bend as they lurch from one crisis to the next, one thing never changes. We know that none of these bosses—not the market capitalists in the U.S., not the state capitalists in Russia, not the profit-hungry bloodsuckers in Mexico or Venezuela or Iran—will hesitate to slaughter workers if it serves their interests.

It remains uncertain as to whether the imperialist war in Ukraine will become the first shots of World War III. But it's safe to say that weakness and divisions in the U.S. ruling class are increasing the possibility of a much larger war, with nuclear weapons now openly on the table (New York Times, 3/13). China's invasion of Taiwan and a move to take over the oil-rich South China Sea seem all but inevitable, leaving the U.S. bosses two bad choices: a war for which they're not prepared, or a surrender of the strategically vital "Indo-Pacific." In the Middle East, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are moving more closely toward China, from trade deals to arms purchases (al-monitor.com, 3/14).

Though world events may seem more volatile and unpredictable by the day, two things are clear. The first is that no empire has ever relinquished global supremacy without resorting to war. The second is that a worldwide communist revolution can put an end to the bosses' wars once and for all.

Blood, gas, and precious metals

Make no mistake about it! This latest bloodbath in Ukraine is just one more example of capitalist global competition over the transport and exploitation of natural resources. The bosses are always willing to sacrifice our class for their profits. In addition to Ukraine's untapped reserves of natural gas, the second largest in Europe, the country contains vast quantities of lithium (third-most in the world), gallium (second-most), and titanium (20 percent of total world reserves). All of these metals are critical to capitalist commercial and military technologies and development.

Lithium is essential to the shift to electric vehicles. Titanium ores are required for airplane and aerospace construction. Gallium is vital to the development of 5G networks, military radar, lasers, and satellites. Classed as a national security concern by the U.S. government, 95 percent of the world's gallium is currently extracted in China (Fierce Electronics, July 2019). Further, the Patriot Missile Defense Systems that NATO has activated to assist Ukraine in its war with Russia were upgraded with gallium semiconductors (Breaking Defense, 2/20/15). These resources are used to line the capitalists' pockets and gain an advantage over rival rulers. We cannot let the bosses spill workers' blood to secure them!

Nationalism, death trap for workers

Nationalism is a crucial tool for the bosses' bloody war plans. The ruling class attempts to win workers to unite based on capitalist borders. This sets workers against their class sisters and brothers, those who share their same interests: the international working class.

In the few weeks since Russia invaded Ukraine, workers in the U.S. have been deluged by commercials and billboards to "Stand with Ukraine." U.S. schoolchildren are urged to dress in the colors of the Ukrainian flag. But we know that workers living in Russia are no more our enemies than Ukrainian President Vlodymyr Zelensky is our friend.

As imperialist powers jockey for global control, they will demand our blood to stay on top. The demonstrations of workers in Russia and the U.S. show us the potential for working-class solidarity in response to this death trap. We call on workers from Ukraine and Russia to turn imperialist war into a class war for communism just as the Bolsheviks did more than 100 years ago! We call on the rest of the world's workers to join them. Only as one united class can we realize the true aspirations of working people everywhere: communism and an end to imperialist wars for all time. Join us! ✪

Democracy is the dictatorship of the capitalist class

Since its inception in the parasitic slave state of Athens in ancient Greece, to its sexist and racist resurrection in capitalist society, democracy has always stood for ruling-class dictatorship. In Athens, the only people who could vote were male citizens who'd completed military service. Athenian democracy was designed to maintain slavery and suppress slave rebellions, to use voting to resolve conflicts within the ruling class and prevent civil war, and to unify the citizenry in wars against rival city-states.

A similar story can be told about the rise of modern, capitalist democracy. After centuries of rule by feudal lords, and following the colonization, genocide, and chattel slavery in the Americas, vast amounts of wealth accumulated in the hands of a new class, the capitalists. This banking-merchant class needed a form of government that protected their capital and profits from the feudal monarchy and the Church. They established a new form of capitalist dictatorship over the newly formed oppressed class: the working class. Democracy must be understood in this way, as a representation of capitalist dictatorship that we must smash!

Today, the bosses of the world are trying to sell our class the false choice of U.S. and European democracy versus Russian or Chinese autocracy. Both are tied to the defense of capitalism, a dead end for our class.

May Day Ready

Imperialist war, no! Fight back, yes!

LOS ANGELES, March 6—Recently, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) held a forum about inter-imperialist rivalry, capitalism, and impending World War III (WWIII). About 20 comrades and friends, including members of impacted families whose loved ones were killed by police, came out to a neighborhood park. The forum was very active and rich in discussion about inter-imperialist rivalry as a basis of capitalist wars (see editorial on page 2) Only communist revolution where the international working class turns the guns around can resolve this dangerous competition over land, profit, and power between the world's imperialist powers.

We started with a brief overview of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and a beginning definition of imperialism. Then we broke up into smaller groups to discuss more in depth, referencing recent articles about Ukraine from CHALLENGE, excerpts about soldiers rebelling in Vietnam, and a timeline of events leading up to the current war in Ukraine.

People in the group thought the discussion about imperialism and the threat of WWIII was particularly relevant given the current war between Russia and Ukraine. The workshop leader began with a detailed explanation of what imperialism is. It is not just one country taking over land of another, but can also mean economic imperialism, which is investment of capital in other countries. It also involves the fight over labor markets and resources.

After reading an editorial about Russia and Ukraine, the discussion started off with a local tenant declaring about imperialism, "It is for the rich, not the poor. They want to stomp us like cockroaches but they need workers to struggle and fight in their wars." This led to a discussion of whether war ever benefits the working class and how to end imperialist war.

People had questions about how we can make a communist revolution and we talked about the Russian soldiers refusing to fight in World War I and turning that war into the Bolshevik revolution. We also talked about how U.S. soldiers in Vietnam rebelling, refusing to fight, and killing their officers is what led to the U.S. imperialists ending their war against Vietnam. Our discussion made clear the necessity of winning soldiers as well as masses of other workers to make a communist revolution.

One of the main lessons of the forum was the importance of doing work in mass organizations and the opportunities it presents for us. During the monthly Flores Fight Back action we passed out a leaflet linking the struggle against police violence with the struggle against imperialist war. The leaflet included an invitation to the forum and we also announced it during the speeches. As a direct result of our work with a group of tenants struggling to get repairs made to their apartments, one comrade met a young volunteer who, the comrade learned during their conversation, considers himself a communist.

The comrade invited the volunteer and his brother to the forum. They both came and participated vigorously in their workshop. One even volunteered to be on our May Day Committee. Everyone who attended was eager to continue these discussions and be involved in more actions. On to May Day!✪

Profit drive and liberal pols sicken public health

Protestors staging die in front of Covid czar Zient's home. Rx needed class struggle for communism.

WASHINGTON, DC, March 11 – Following an October overnight protest at the home of Jeffrey Zients, Counselor to President Joe Biden, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members joined a protest this week calling out Zients Joe Biden's new blood soaked Covid-Czar. The march, organized by Justice is Global, Public Health Awakened, and R2H (Right to Health), denounced the COVAX program, the disastrous U.S. led global vaccine distribution and development initiative. With 18.2 million Covid-19 related deaths worldwide as a result of the vaccine apartheid (Washington Post, 3/14) and only 12 percent in many of small capitalist countries having been vaccinated(ourworldindata.org).

As we marched against Zients, Biden, and capitalist disregard overall, we took aim at the entire system of U.S. imperialism and its racist sexist healthcare system. As long as the fate of the world rests in the hands of imperialist butchers and profit hungry bosses, misery and death will continue to rain down on workers across the globe. Smashing capitalism is not just a moral imperative; it's a life and death battle. Now more than ever we need communism, a system that is run by working people for the benefit of all. Under communism the core values of health and science care will put human life and progress at the forefront, and will be available to all. Money and the profit incentive will be eradicated along with preventable deaths from treatable illnesses.

A PL'er addressed the rally by linking the racist vaccination policy failures to capitalism and rising imperialism. She pointed out that the U.S. oligarch Bill Gates, in keeping with capitalism's profits-only goal, fought to keep the profits flowing to the drug companies by limiting the Covid-19 vaccine supply and refusing to make the mRNA vaccine recipe available to the world.

Several additional people joined us at the rally and were introduced to PLP with our revolutionary newspaper, CHALLENGE. PLP members have been working with these organizations as well as the American Public Health Association to build international solidarity and raise revolutionary politics (see CHALLENGE, 11/17/21 and CHALLENGE Letters, 3/2).

Some demonstrators and members of these organizations have illusions that we can pressure politicians into serving the working class. In reality, these cronies, Democrats and Republicans alike, are controlled by the U.S. financial oligarchs and pharmaceutical corporations and will never seek to do right by our class.

Never-the-less we fight back. We are still planning to attack the pharmaceutical companies directly with a rally in Boston at Moderna headquarters in late April.

We continue to demand that the TRIPS Agreement waiver and technology transfer (a waiver that would temporarily waive intellectual property rights protections for technologies needed to prevent, contain, or treat Covid-19, including vaccines) be approved so that there can be worldwide capacity to respond to epidemics without companies like Moderna and Pfizer amassing huge profits by selling vaccines only to rich countries.

Other speakers described the risk of new Covid variants without widespread vaccinations. One worker movingly read an organizer's account of the impact of Covid-19 on her life as a disabled person who has lost friends because they disagree with her safety requests (masks and vaccination). Others described the struggles of health workers, the fights to keep schools safe, and international lives lost without vaccinations. The pandemic has been so politicized that public health for everyone, already a pipe-dream under capitalism, has been compromised.

At the rally, a large prescription poster calling for firing Jeffrey Zients and replacing him with a public health expert was erected next to a giant report card giving him an F for public safety but an A+ for supporting corporate interests!

Several cardboard bottles called for PUBLIC HEALTH not PROFIT. The rally ended with a two-minute die-in complete with gravestones to commemorate two-years since the Covid-19 pandemic struck the U.S.

As similar protests were held simultaneously in many cities and towns in the U.S. and internationally, we as PLP members take a moment to remind ourselves and our comrades that under capitalism there is no just healthcare or equitable care for the working class. It is only under communism, where medicine and its supporting systems are built to put the patient not profit first will we ever truly know health. Fight for communism, power to the working class!✪

Chile's new president Boric is a kiss of death

VALPARAISO, March 11—Today's inauguration of another liberal misleader, Chilean president Gabriel Boric, represents a major blow to class consciousness and the struggle for working-class power in the region. The victory of communism will never come through the ballot box, only by the seizure of state power through violent revolution under leadership of the mass and international Progressive Labor Party (PLP).

The 36-year-old former student leader, the first "leftist" millennial elected as President, Boric secured office by riding a recent wave of mass fightback against cost of living hikes, wage inequality, and anti-indigenous racism. But like so many liberal capitalist politicians, Boric is already primed to deceive the working class. Boric joins the stock of played out pink-tide democratic socialists in Latin America who pacify workers with shiny promises of change, but trap workers in the hamster wheel of capitalist reforms. The greatest danger liberals like Boric pose is fascism. A country battered by crisis, Boric will need to exert fascist control of the economy in order to discipline workers, while courting rival imperialists U.S. and China, and enriching the local capitalists.

All politicians under this system—from Boric to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, from Joe Biden to Vladimir Putin—serve the interests of preserving one faction of capitalist rule or another. Our task as communists and anti-capitalist fighters is to cut through the hype and false promises of the bosses everywhere, and win millions of others to the winning alternative of building PLP and international revolution.

Identity politics, the kiss of death

It's easy to see how a case could be made for Boric, considering he's taking the helm from former billionaire president Sebastian Piñera, and beat out another candidate during the election whose father was a card-carrying Nazi and Pinochet sympathizer (Guardian, 12/8/21). Boric is making history by stacking his cabinet with a record number of women politicians as well as members of Chile's sellout "Communist" Party (Americas Quarterly, 1/21).

But all that glitters is not gold. Within the same cabinet, Boric was quick to appease international capitalist interests by appointing Mario Marcel as finance minister (Reuters, 1/21). Marcel was head of Chile's central bank during the administration of Piñera in 2019, the year of mass protests in response to rising transit costs and stagnant wages. During this period, Chile was "one of the most unequal countries in Latin America" (Al Jazeera, 10/30/19).

The development of a new national constitution, the compromise made with the Chilean ruling class in response to the protests of 2019, now will take shape under Boric's watch. The new constitution is already being hailed as a major advance from the previous one written under the rule of fascist military dictator Augusto Pinochet.

But the reform promises of a greater social safety net and gender parity are already on shaky ground. Two years of pandemic capitalism exacerbated a profit crunch and Boric will compromise with bosses of all stripes (Deccan Herald, 12/21/21).

Chile caught in U.S.-China rivalry

To try and pull Chilean capitalism out of its crisis, Boric and company look to exploit the country's vast mineral wealth. Chile is the world's largest copper producer and is home to some of the largest lithium deposits on the planet (S&P Global, 12/21/21). The scramble to mine these metals, valuable for commodities from computers to electric vehicles, is attracting more attention from the world's top imperialist powers.

Already, Boric's compromise with imperialist fracking, hiking mining taxes and ramping up resource extraction show his willingness to sell workers out to capital. Expect more super-exploitation of miners and dispossession of indigenous workers who are living in the crosshairs of the resource-rich Atacama Desert (Washington Post, 6/21/19).

Still considering Chile much in the U.S. sphere of influence, the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden was quick to congratulate Boric on his election victory while even sending a delegation to attend the inauguration. U.S.-based company Albemarle is already running one of the largest lithium extraction operations in the country while still seeking to expand (CSIS, 8/17/21). Meanwhile, Chinese imperialist influence on the South American continent has grown at least tenfold over the last decade and a Chinese mining firm just outbid Albemarle for a new lithium contract in Chile (Asia Financial, 1/22).

Certain to play the greatest cost for this growing imperialist showdown is the environment and workers that Boric claims to be eager to defend. Mining is easily one of the most deadly industries for the working class, claiming thousands of workers' lives every year to ensure the bosses' profits. No doubt still fresh in the memory of many workers in Chile is the Copiapó mining accident in 2010 in which 33 miners were trapped underground for 69 days.

Boric's claims to want to nationalize mining in the country are nothing more than a ploy to throw some crumbs at the working class while the bosses are primed to make a boon in profits, a la Hugo Chavez/Nicolas Maduro with oil in Venezuela. Any social contract with our exploiters is murder for our class!

Only one path to workers' power

There are no doubt workers still alive in Chile who saw the rise and fall of the socialist president Salvador Allende. Voted into power, Allende and his government made the fatal error of a "peaceful" path of opposing capitalism, only to pay the price when the U.S. imperialists backed Pinochet to overthrow him and establish a fascist regime that murdered thousands of workers across decades.

Let's not repeat the same mistakes. Let the militant fightback from workers in Chile in 2019 be reignited and become one of the many battles for communist revolution!✪

Mexico: liberal bosses remain main danger

At the beginning of February, the Coordinator of Education Workers (CNTE) convened a meeting of left-wing organizations called the "Resistance Conference" to promote social protest. Many groups expressed disenchantment with the Fourth Transformation policies of President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO) and argued for the need to resume struggle and resistance.

Two comrades from Progressive Labor Party (PLP) attended the meeting where we handed out a few dozen CHALLENGE leaflets detailing why capitalist reforms are a dead end for our class. The content of those leaflets is reproduced below. The plan is to continue to participate in future meetings:

The liberal fourth transformation (4T slogan of the Mexican government) managed to renew the hope of some reformists that capitalism could be reformed to serve the interests of the masses. However, in just three years, this government showed its true anti-working class nature and subservience to the interests of big capital. The patronage structure set up in the 4T social programs has paved the way for the government's imperialist megaprojects: the Interoceanic Corridor, the Mayan Train, the Dos Bocas Refinery and the new Mexico City Airport.

A combination of cronyism, cooptation, assassination of social leaders and militarization disguised as the National Guard on top of an economic crisis exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic has allowed bankers to reap record profits of 162 billion pesos (La Jornada, 2/3). For example, the profits of the county's largest mining company, Grupo México, soared 70 percent in 2021 reaching 3,868 million dollars (La Jornada, 2/2). In the last couple of months, the capital of the mega-rich in Mexico grew six times more than the country's economy. The fortunes of these millionaires increased 27.3 percent (La Jornada, 11/30/21).

With all this, the AMLO government has managed to demobilize workers and to dismantle the

opposition into supporting its megaprojects. For example, the re-election and legitimization of Ricardo Aldana, the corrupt union leader of the Mexican oil workers (PEMEX), serves to maintain control over the workers and reveals the anti-worker, pro-capitalist essence of the 4T.

During the last three years, in Mexico, conditions for the working class have worsened. In Latin America, one in four people lost their job and to date they have not recovered it. Employment fell from 76 percent to 62 percent, with an increase in informal work from 48 percent to 53 percent. At the beginning of the pandemic, 12 percent of households had been without food for at least a month. This proportion doubled in a year and a half of the health crisis and was accompanied by lower incomes and deteriorated working conditions (La Day, 12/30/21).

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown the inability of the capitalist system to meet the needs of the working class. The profit-based health system continues to be overwhelmed by the number of patients. The capitalists focus on saving their companies over the lives of workers. The imperialists prioritize competition and their global geopolitical interests over the solidarity and collaboration between countries necessary to confront the health crisis. This individualistic, racist and sexist approach has had lethal consequences for our families and has allowed the virus to mutate causing more outbreaks all over the world.

The effects of Covid-19 were felt more intensely by working women, who are twice as likely to lose their jobs as men. In the first months of the pandemic, 38 percent of working women lost their jobs, and this doubled for mothers, reaching 40 percent unemployment. Likewise, during all these months, the unpaid workload increased, since taking care of the sick and children was added to domestic work.

In Mexico, 94 percent of those who died from Covid-19 were women who tended to their homes, pensioners, and workers (https://covid19comision.unam.mx/?p=89342), which reflects the sexism of the capitalist system and the need to prioritize industrial production over the lives of workers. Many of the deaths were concentrated in industrialized regions (especially in the border area with the U.S.). The maquila workshops never closed and some operated clandestinely without medical or job security. A recent study has shown that workers with lower incomes have a five-fold higher risk of death (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S 2667193X 21001113? via %3Dihub), demonstrating the inequality that the capitalist system promotes and maintains.

The sectors of society (mainly the working class) that have historically resisted the onslaught of capital must resume resistance actions to confront the capitalists, including the liberals of the 4T. We need to unify as a class through a non-electoral revolutionary party (Progressive Labor Party) to seize power from capital and build a communist society✪.

Black communists in the Spanish Civil War

Salaria Kea: A life of service to our class lives on

This is part of a series about Black communists in the Spanish Civil War. In the early 1930s the urban bourgeoisie (capitalists) of Spain, supported by most workers and many peasants, overthrew the violent, repressive monarchy to form a republic. In July 1936 the Spanish army, eventually commanded by Francisco Franco, later the fascist dictator, rebelled to re-establish the repressive monarchy. Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy gave Franco massive military aid.

In 1936 the International Communist Movement, called the Comintern, headquartered in the Soviet Union and led by Joseph Stalin, organized volunteers, mainly workers from more than 60 countries into the International Brigades (IBs) to go to Spain to defend the Republic. But, in defending the Republic, they were defending capitalists. This was part of the united front against fascism, where communists united with so-called liberal capitalists against the fascist capitalists.

In the Progressive Labor Party we are against any unity with capitalists. They all have to go and the working class must rule: that's communism.

If the working class is to seize and hold state power throughout the world, Black workers and their leadership is essential. Our class cannot destroy racism—the lifeblood of capitalism—without their leadership. The following continues that story:

Salaria Kea was born in 1913 in Georgia. Her father was a worker in a sanitarium that was overcrowded and understaffed. When he was killed by a deranged patient, her mother moved the family to Akron, OH. There Salaria got her first taste of the power of collective action and fightback. First her older brothers raised her and worked so that she could get an education. One started working at the age of nine. When she wanted to play basketball but was rejected at Akron Central High, her brothers went to the school board with her. She got transferred to West H.S. and got on the team: "*That was her first realization that one does not accept and submit to unfair practices. One resists and fights"* (see sources at the end).

Thus began a lifetime of helping the working class as a nurse and fighting against racism. It took her from protests at Harlem Hospital to the front lines of the Spanish Civil War against fascism to joining the Communist Party in 1935. Ultimately the Communist Party became a reformist party and gave up the fight for workers' power and communism. But, Salaria never gave up the fight against racism and to improve conditions for the working class. It is now our task in the Progressive Labor Party to fight to end the horrors of capitalism once and for all with communist revolution.

Fighting segregation, and winning!

Aiming to be a nurse, she was rejected by nursing schools in Ohio and moved to New York City. While training at Harlem Hospital, she and others helped end segregated seating in the cafeteria.

One day Salaria entered the dining room with a group of her fellow students. They found only one vacant table so seated themselves there. The waitress refused to serve them saying that this table was reserved for white social workers … At once the five students rose, gathered up the ends of the cloth and dumped the table over.

Salaria Kea, Black, woman, communist, anti-racist, in her Abraham Lincoln Brigade volunteer nurse uniform

They demanded an end to racial segregation in the staff dining room and the appointment of one Black dietitian (all five were white). These demands were won!

That summer [1934] infantile diarrhea spread through the hospital. Daily from three to five babies died. People in the street began … referring to the hospital as the "Death House" … Discontent finally crystallized in organized protest. A picket line was thrown around the hospital demanding an investigation into the deaths of so many babies, … These demands were met. … Salaria learned that the individual is only as secure as the group.

Making connections: From Harlem to Ethiopia to Spain

Salaria became active with other progressive nurses. She began to understand the connections between racism at Harlem Hospital, the Italian invasion of Ethiopia, and the Spanish Civil War against fascism. She joined the Communist Party. The Red Cross in Spain rejected her application, so she went to Spain with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade organized mainly by the Communist Party. She was the first Black American woman there.

First she worked at the former Spanish King's summer palace, now turned over to cows and goats while the Spanish peasants lived in hovels. She helped organize to make the dilapidated halls clean and safe for the peasants to move in.

> *This was Salaria's first concrete example of discrimination where race was not a factor. Here it was peasantry versus nobility. The peasants had previously accepted the belief that nothing could be done about it [their conditions]. Like the Harlem nurses the peasants were now learning that something could be done … One resisted, one fought, … There was nothing inviolable about the old prejudices.*
>
> *Behind the battle lines, conditions were poor, ignorance everywhere.*
>
> *Two years of war and all Spain's trees have been burned for fuel. One morning in a cold rain they brought in a young French soldier. A leg had to be amputated immediately. There was no time to warm him – and no fuel …*
>
> *Pack his bed with hot water bottles," the doctor ordered. Collectively the nurses puffed at little oil stoves which refused to take fire with dilute kerosene. It seemed horrible to watch this young chap die when so simple a thing as hot water could save him …*
>
> *Salaria glanced at the clock, noted it was approaching lunchtime and soup should be boiling. Nimbly she gathered up hot water bottles, ran down the stairs and, unnoticed, into the kitchen. With a big pitcher she filled the three hot water bottles with steaming soup. The patient recovered.*

Wounded, then back to the struggle

Transferred to the front lines, Salaria treated the wounded while helping to fight off German dive-bombers with a machine gun. In March, 1938,

> *… her hospital unit suffered a particularly heavy bombardment … Suddenly the signal was given "Cover! In the trenches!" Lying flat, face buried in the earth floor of the trench she heard a tremendous explosion. Some time later she was uncovered and dug out from under six feet of rock, shell and earth.*

Wounded, she was furloughed back to New York. During three months of convalescing she traveled around the country raising money for medical aid and food for the Spanish people. During World War II racism prevented Salaria from joining the Army Nurse Corps until near the war's end.

Salaria Kea devoted her life to the working class. As capitalism ravages the world's workers and imperialist rivalries bring us ever closer to world war, let's fight for a world run by and for workers like Salaria. That's communism!✪

Sources

Emily Robins Sharpe, "Salaria Kea's Spanish Memoirs" The Volunteer, December 2011

Mark O'Sullivan, "What Do We Know About Salaria Kea's Irish Husband?" The Volunteer, May 2021.

Same enemy, same fight students and workers must unite

1,000 Students and teachers march against racist budget cuts and imperialist war. Read CHALLENGE turn imperialist war into class war for communism.

Continued from page 1

campaign for our next contract heats up.

The day ended on the best possible note: one of our students decided to become a member of PLP and join the fight for communism! This is most critical. We need to be active in reform fights, and we need to push these fights to be as sharp as possible.

But most importantly, as we fight alongside our students and coworkers, we need to struggle to win them to see that only destroying this system and replacing it with workers' power will secure the future that we need.

Today we have one more member who will make this fight their own. Will you be next?✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

From Rome to Russia: Bella Ciao

We are two members of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) currently living in Rome, Italy. The crisis in Ukraine (see editorial on page 2) has sparked many protests. The U.S. and European news media want workers to think that everyone in the so-called West is on board with NATO, U.S. imperialism, and Ukrainian nationalism. But across all the banners of the 50,000 demonstrators at the March 6 protest, we only saw two Ukrainian flags.

At the rally no one was buying into the position that Uncle Sam and the European bosses were the good guys, charging-in to save "democracy." The loudest and most frequent chants called for an end to the war and for Italy to get out of NATO. The spirit of proletarian internationalism reverberated throughout much of the crowd.

As PLP members, we want to connect with some of the leftist groups present at the demonstration. Our goal is to see if we can find common ground for revolutionary, communist theory and practice. There are many workers around the world who are sick and tired of being sick and tired of racism, capitalism, sexism, and imperialism. We need to find our like-minded comrades in other regions and countries, discuss our points of agreement and difference, and find ways to organize for the communist future urgently needed by the workers of the world.

Red mama raising little Red

I've been a stay-at-home mama for the past two years. Though there are struggles, as with anything else, it has truly been a rewarding and life-changing experience for me. I feel lucky to witness my little one's (LO) development and to spend time getting to know this little human.

My LO is speaking a lot for their age and loves to sing. Music is an important part of our daily rituals; it's a great source of joy and a wonderful tool for teaching language.

Over the past few weeks, I've been practicing songs for a recording with a comrade. My LO has caught on and has been requesting to sing songs with lyrics such as, "We are the mighty working class," "All that it takes for evil to win is for good people to do nothing," and "Workers always save the day!" While I know that my LO does not fully understand all that they are saying, I'm happy that they are adding phrases like "working class" to their growing vocabulary. These early impressions on a child's life are significant!

We attended an anti-imperialism/anti-war protest a few weeks ago regarding Ukraine. Days later, my LO and I were chanting: Me: "Racism means"… LO: "We got to fight back!"

It may seem small, but I'm reminded that everything we do counts! Our children are watching us. As the comrade says in the song, The Mighty, "when you feel the most like hiding, we should know how much is riding on what each of us do!"

Here's to hopes of raising a future working class leader and fighter!

★★★★★

Struggle continues in this game, set, match

So I play tennis with a very nice guy who happens to be Russian but he grew up in Kiev, Ukraine. As I got to know him, I realized that he was a liberal guy who hated Trump and Putin both. But he also made derogatory comments about Stalin and about the former Soviet Union.

When the war in Ukraine started he was very much against Putin but I decided to push back a little and criticize the role of U.S. imperialism and the role of NATO. He would have none of that. It was all Putin's fault. I mentioned that in between the two wars that the U.S. launched against Iraq, President Bill Clinton's administration enforced a no fly zone over a large part of Iraq. They bombed Iraqi jets and installations. According to a United Nations (UN) report,I explained, 500,000 women and children were killed by this U.S. bombing. He would have none of this. No way, he said. It did not happen. The U.S. did not do any such thing and anyway, both wars in Iraq were carried out by the two Bush presidents. Clinton had nothing to do with either war.

We argued for a bit and then I said, "Google it." I didn't think he would but I made sure that I did. I wanted to bring him the proof. Lo and behold, the proof was not so easy to find. And as far as the New York Times was concerned, the bombing never happened. I had to do several different Google searches and look way past the first four to five pages and even then the so-called legitimate sources like the New York Times had very little. But it turns out I was also somewhat wrong. UNICEF (UN agency) said it was a combination of U.S. bombing and also sanctions, and the number of deaths they listed was one million children. I'm thinking to myself, what a great job of censorship is done by the liberal Big Fascist (see Glossary, page 6) media. How hypocritical of them to accuse the Russian and Chinese fascists of censorship.

When we next spoke my friend had indeed Googled the Iraq wars and came up with entirely different information, mainly relating to deaths of Iraqi soldiers.

I explained to him my struggle with liberal U.S. censorship. He was not convinced. So we bet a bottle of wine about who was right, but he insisted that I had to find proof for my argument in the New York Times. The struggle continues.

★★★★★

50 years later racism rotten as ever.

This past month marked 50 years since, as a young member of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and Friends of Progressive Labor Party, I and some comrades in Iowa organized to confront a racist professor. Richard Herrnstein (who later wrote *The Bell Curve* with Charles Murray) was coming to the University of Iowa to speak. SDS had been kicked off campus the year before for sitting in to stop the DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency) from recruiting students during the height of the war in Vietnam.

Over 500 people came to "discuss" with Herrnstein his theories about IQ (intelligence quotient). His position was that higher IQ people are on the top of the heap in the capitalist system. He said they deserve to be there because the U.S. is a "meritocracy." IQ is NOT genetically based as Herrnstein (and other pseudoscientists) would have us believe. More money, family connections, and better schools are what counts in this system. IQ is socially determined. Herrnstein attempted to justify the racist capitalist system based on the pseudoscience of IQ and its use. Most people who came that day were having none of it. Herrnstein never showed up to give his talk. Comrades from Chicago came and took over the stage to make it a forum about fighting racism under capitalism.

Looking back, I was kicked out of the university, but have no regrets. It was an important struggle that continues 50 years later in other forms. Under capitalism, if any progress against racism is made, it is taken away later. Such is the case now with the level of racism at a high, moving closer to Jim Crow levels. Since then, we have had some success in smashing the nazis in the 70s and 80s. We have stood up against racist police murders. But, like whack-a-mole, this system keeps popping back up.

We have a new generation of comrades that are leading the struggle to smash the bosses once and for all. My hope is that learning from past revolutions and our own experiences in struggle over the last several decades will help direct us toward an egalitarian communist society in which racism is a crime.

★★★★★

The deadly hypocrisy of NATO

Millions worldwide can see through U.S. imperialism and NATO's hypocrisy in their cynical opposition to Russian imperialism's invasion of the Ukraine. What is less front and center is the state of life for the working class in Afghanistan. Since the 2021 withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces life there has been one of starvation.

A devastating 20-year, racist "war on terror" has produced a situation so dire that the United Nations has declared that the Afghani people are set to "plunge into universal poverty" with 97 percent of its population of nearly 40 million falling below the global poverty line (The New Yorker, 1/05). According to UNICEF, more than 23 million Afghanis suffer from acute hunger (ABC News, 2/09), with one million children at risk of dying from starvation (New York Times, 9/13/21). It has become so desperate that many Afghanis have been left to sell their organs for food (New York Times, 2/06). A mother of three, Aziza, told reporters at Al Jazeera that in the face of hunger "If I don't sell my kidney, I will be forced to sell my one-year-old daughter," so she is choosing her kidney (Al Jazerra, 2/28).

NATO's imperialist alliance brought brutal conditions to Afghanistan. After catastrophically handing power over to the right-wing Taliban, these same Western powers have economically embargoed the starving Afghani people (New York Times, 2/20). In fact, imperialist-in-chief, Joe Biden, is planning on looting 3.5 billion dollars from the frozen funds of Afghanistan's central bank during this humanitarian disaster (New York Times, 2/13).

While the U.S.-led fascists demand a new cold war to counter Russia's imperialist war in Ukraine, they continue to orchestrate a campaign of brutal silence as millions of our class brothers and sisters perish at their hands in Syria, Yemen, Palestine, and Afghanistan. The working-class must refuse nationalism and imperialism. Only an organized working-class lead by the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party can seize state power to end imperialist genocide once and for all. To repeat Lenin, the international working-class must turn imperialist war into class war. Fight for communism, join PLP!

★★★★★

GLOSSARY

COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism

Capitalism's response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

Review of *I Will Marry When I Want*

Play takes on sexism, muddies nationalism

I Will Marry When I Want (1970) dramatizes the problems facing the working class and peasants in post-colonial Africa, and shows how these problems are essentially the same throughout the world. The play takes on the issues of sexism, religious idealism, and capitalist land ownership and makes the effort to demonstrate that factory-peasant unity in class struggle is the only form of true empowerment for the masses. While the play falls short of demonstrating that nationalism is the most tricky and difficult to overcome in the capitalist ideology of our time, members and friends of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) can find it useful in reinforcing the fact that only full-scale communist revolution can end the struggles for our class.

Ngugi, the playwright, was imprisoned without trial in Kenya in the late 1970s because he was using this play in exactly this way (he now lives in exile in the U.S.). Because we are bombarded daily with capitalist, fascist, and defeatist art, we ought to be more than eager to read, study, and discuss the literature that is the product of the communist movement.

Kiguunda (Kigu-unda) and his wife Wangeci (Wangesi) are poor farmers, who are troubled when they think that their rich neighbor, and Kiguunda's boss, Kioi, wants his son, John, to marry their daughter, Gathoni. Kiguunda remembers the days when he fought the British imperialists in the Mau Mau rebellion (1950-56), and the better life this period seemed to promise. He is suspicious of the rich exploiters. However, Kiguunda thinks Kioi's interest in his family is their chance for material comfort, and so they do as he wants. When Kioi betrays them, grabbing their land to boot, they understand that capitalism holds nothing for misery, and revolution is the answer.

Kioi, and his wife Jezebel, represent the small class of African capitalists who have become the new ruling class of Kenya after independence from colonialism in 1962. They are rich from buying up land, as well as from being the "watchdogs," as they call themselves, for capitalists from the imperialist countries who continue to exploit Kenya for cheap labor and resources. They steal Kiguunda's farm to resell it to foreign investors as a site for a pesticide plant.

Gicaamba and his wife, Njooki, former Mau Mau, are factory workers. They are class-conscious and warn Kiguunda and Wangeci never to trust the rich. They tell Kiguunda that class struggle is the only solution. In the end, the farmer – now landless – and the worker unite to call for revolution, similar to, and yet different from, the Mau Mau rebellion of their youth, for this time it will be for the workers and the poor.

Tie fight vs imperialism with sexism

Gicaamba, the worker, stresses the importance of combining the fight for equality with the fight against sexist oppression. He recalls the sexism of the traditional African societies as well as during colonial times and the present. He discusses the contribution of women to the household and the anti-imperialist struggle against the British:

> *Gathoni is not to blame …*
>
> *We the parents have not put much effort in the education of our girls.*
>
> *Even before colonialism,*
>
> *We oppressed women.*
>
> *Giving ourselves numerous justifications …*
>
> *Do you think it was only the men*
>
> *Who fought for Kenya's independence?*
>
> *How many women died in the forests?* (104-105)

Without equality between men and women, the workers' and farmers' struggles cannot win.

The role of religion

The role of religions as an oppressive ideology against the poor is a major issue in the play. Kiguunda and Wangeci are proud of their traditional wedding, but deeply suspicious of the religiosity of Kioi. Kioi and Jezebel want Kiguunda and Wangeci to join their Christian church, which they do despite their misgivings. Religion is clearly depicted as an ideological tool of the exploiters, whether the British imperialists in the recent past or the African exploiters of the present.

Kiguunda remembers the anti-imperialist Mau Mau rebellion as a time of national unity. (Another play co-authored by Ngugi, The Trial of Dedan Kimathi, exposes how shallow this unity was). Gicaamba makes it clear that the African rich have replaced the imperialists as the new exploiters, every bit as bad as the old ones. Kioi provides an African cover that allows the old imperialist powers to continue to exploit Kenyan workers.

Although the play does a wonderful job of critiquing idealism, sexism and individualism, the playwright does not have the political understanding of the limitations of nationalism as a tool in overturning capitalist inequality. While many anti-colonialists of the post-WWII period felt that nationalism could be "good" if it represented the interests of poor, marginalized workers who are discriminated against by corrupt capitalists, in no situation did this actually succeed. In each case, including Kenya, the so-called revolutionaries became the new national capitalist forces.

The issue of nationalism vs class-consciousness is muddy. In places, nationalism is portrayed as positive in a way which contradicts the sharply anti-nationalist line set forward elsewhere in the play. This political weakness in the play could lead to very fruitful discussion. Religion, sexism and nationalism are barriers for workers everywhere. The play could also be assigned by teachers, and used by students for reports and papers, as a forum in which to raise revolutionary, antiracist, antisexist ideas.✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

War in Ukraine is caused by inter-imperialist rivalries

Economist, 3/11-There is no question that Vladimir Putin started the war and is responsible for how it is being waged. But why he did so is another matter. The mainstream view in the West is that he is an irrational, out-of-touch aggressor bent on creating a greater Russia…But that story is wrong. The West, and especially America, is principally responsible for the crisis which began in February 2014.

The trouble over Ukraine actually started at NATO's Bucharest summit in April 2008, when George W. Bush's administration pushed the alliance to announce that Ukraine and Georgia "will become members." Russian leaders responded immediately with outrage…America ignored Moscow's red line, however, and pushed forward to make Ukraine a Western bulwark on Russia's border.

These efforts eventually sparked hostilities in February 2014, after an uprising (which was supported by America) caused Ukraine's pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovych, to flee the country. The links between Ukraine and America continued growing under the Biden administration.

The aim was to "underscore … a commitment to Ukraine's implementation of the deep and comprehensive reforms necessary for full integration into European and Euro-Atlantic institutions."

War in Ukraine has multiple paths to WWIII

Foreign Affairs, 3/8–During the first week of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Russian leaders repeatedly raised the prospect of a nuclear response should the United States or its NATO partners intervene in the war…The West and Russia may now be entering into the terminal stages of an insecurity spiral—a series of mutually destabilizing choices—which could end in tragedy, producing a larger European conflagration even if it doesn't go nuclear.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, however, has dangerously upped the ante and accelerated the spiral's pace. …the United States, NATO, and EU member states have sent Ukraine significant quantities of lethal weapons, placed draconian sanctions on Russia's economy, and launched a long-term military buildup.

It is hard to think of historical parallels to this sudden isolation of a major economy, and the few comparable historical cases—Italy in the 1930s, Japan in the 1940s—do not bode well.

There is also a serious risk that the conflict in Ukraine might spill over its borders. Europe is engaged in a rapid period of rearmament, with dramatically shifting security conditions on the ground… there is always the risk of freelancing by regional allies, which might draw Russia and the rest of NATO into direct conflict. If the Russians seize Kyiv or overthrow the Ukrainian government, these states will likely be strong proponents of arming and supporting an insurgency inside Ukraine.

North Korea testing ICBMs to challenge U.S.

NY Times, 3/10–The White House said that North Korea had begun testing a new intercontinental ballistic missile in recent days, and that American forces were putting their missile defense units in Asia in a state of "enhanced readiness" for what they expect will be another launch intended to demonstrate the range of the new missile.

Reports emanating out of South Korea…suggest it was most likely a crude version of a maneuverable vehicle…experts … said that if its first stage held four engines, the missile could, "in principle," deliver up to nearly four tons of payload "to any point in the continental United States" … its vast lifting power in theory would let it loft multiple nuclear warheads at once, greatly increasing its destructive power.

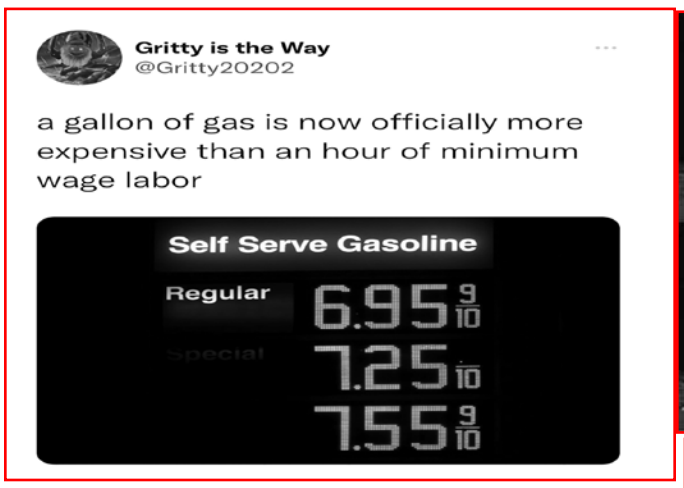
Wars in Middle East play out in Saudi Arabia executions

Al Jazeera, 3/12–Saudi Arabia has executed 81 men over the past 24 hours, including seven Yemenis and one Syrian national, on charges including "allegiance to foreign terrorist organisations"...in the largest known mass execution carried out in the kingdom in its modern history.

"Crimes committed by these individuals also include pledging allegiance to foreign terrorist organisations, such as ISIS [ISIL], al-Qaeda and the Houthis," it added. The men included 37 Saudi nationals who were found guilty in a single case for attempting to assassinate security officers and targeting police stations and convoys, the report added.

CAPITALIST HOUSE OF HORRORS

When the bosses' capitalism is in crisis, it exacerbates the already abysmal conditions of the working class. From healthcare and education to gas prices and wages, living under capitalism is like being trapped in a house of horrors. Every aspect of life is unnecessary torment organized around the insane logic of profit. The following are a few of the many recent memes and posts on social media that reflect some working-class consciousness. Follow @PLPchallenge on twitter to see more.



Wage slavery

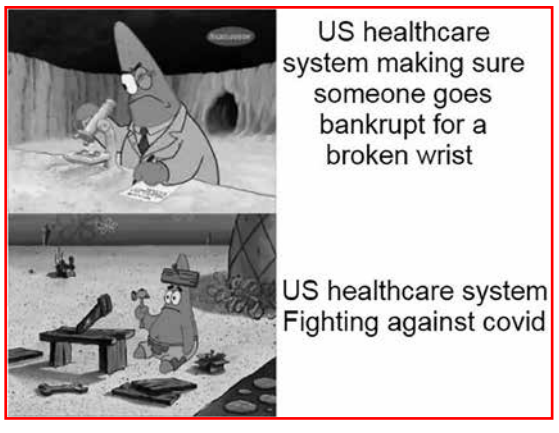
Exploitation is to capitalism like water is to fish. Capitalism enslaves working-class creativity and labor into a tool for profit, which is further compounded by the two pillars of this profit system, racism and sexism. If this is the best capitalism can do, we can do better than capitalism.

Oil & U.S. Hypocrisy

The logic of capitalism puts profit over working-class necessities. Add the shameless hypocrisy of a U.S. empire in decline, and you get an in-escapable system that first exploits you, and then tries to brainwash you into thinking "it could be worse."

Pandemic & Healthcare

Ask a hospital worker about the healthcare system, and they will tell you the drive for profit is in direct



This era—one characterized by pandemic inequity, reforms on the road to fascism, and imperialist conflicts all propelling towards world war—has exposed the unlivable logic of capitalism. What is to be done? The potential to fight back and grow an international movement for communism is real. Under communism, we do not organize for profit—we organize for our needs. We don't get ruled over—we rule. March with us on May Day to show workers of the world what revolutionary communist potential looks like and what a world run by workers could be!

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is the **Friday evening of March 18.** Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See box on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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